

Town of Newfield Board Meeting Minutes  
April 8, 2010

The Regular Meeting of the Newfield Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Driscoll at 7:00PM. Present: CP James, CP Laughlin, CP Dolge and Supervisor Driscoll. Also present: Highway Superintendent Kevin Berggren, Code Enforcer Tony Petito, County Legislator Dave McKenna and Town Attorney Edward Hooks. Absent: CP Hart

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Supervisor Driscoll.

Motion was made by CP Dolge to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting held on March 11, 2010. Motion was seconded by CP Laughlin. All approved.

#### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Jeffner Allen introduced herself to the Town Board and the community. She is a member of the Newfield Critical Areas Work Group. Ms. Allen stated that New York Law gives people, through their town government, the right to select local places and resources of special importance to their community. These places are called "Critical Environmental Areas" (CEAs) – areas of natural, agricultural, historical, or cultural significance that are designated locally and registered with the NYSDEC. Listing these places gives them added consideration during the permitting process for industrial developers. Whereas a designation as a Critical Environmental Area does not inhibit or restrict drilling or other industrial activity, it would require the State and industrial developers, including gas companies, to recognize them as especially important to the local community and where possible reduce or mitigate potentially negative impacts in or near these areas. Supervisor Driscoll asked Ms. Allen when she felt she would want to report back to the Town Board and how much time she felt she would need. Ms. Allen will let Supervisor Berggren know ahead of time prior to the Board Meeting.

Tom Gerow, Millard Hill Rd. stated that he was curious about the status of the web site. He felt this was a good way to keep in touch with the community. Supervisor Driscoll stated that he thought maybe Mr. Gerow was on the wrong web site. He may be using the school's web site which isn't current. Mr. Gerow was asked to contact the Town Clerk's office if he is not able to find the correct website for the town.

Tony Russo, Van Kirk Rd. spoke to the Board regarding the gas drilling. He urged the Board to take a more balance view of the entire gas drilling picture.

CORRESPONDENCE – There were no correspondences.

OLD BUSINESS

Motion was made by CP James approving the appointment of Tony Petito as part-time Environmental Code Enforcement Officer. Motion was seconded by CP Laughlin. All approved.

Dog Enumeration Update – Supervisor Berggren stated he was still waiting to hear from the SPCA for a quote. He hopes to hear by the end of the month. If he doesn't we will move on.

Brenda Gill, Bookkeeper/Assistant to Supervisor, reviewed the 2009 year end Financial Report with the Board. The Report was reviewed and discussed. Further discussion will be held at the work session.

Motion was made by CP Dolge to approve the payment of the February monthly bills. Motion was seconded by CP James. All approved.

General Fund	totaling	\$57,180.62
Highway Fund	totaling	\$34,588.57
Sewer District	totaling	\$ 270.43
Water District #1	totaling	\$ 3,098.51
Recreation	totaling	\$ 2,110.94
Water District #2	totaling	\$ 6,770.00

REPORTS

Supervisor – Supervisor Driscoll stated the on Monday evening, April 5<sup>th</sup>, there was a Town Meeting held at the Fire Hall. Approximately 50-60 residents attended. Don Barber presided over the meeting. Questions and answers were robust. The purpose of the meeting was specifically to let folks know what it is municipalities need to think about in order to prepare for drilling. It wasn't a position of for or against it was strictly what to do when it arrives. Delta Engineering gave a presentation to the Supervisor at the Town Hall and then he attended another meeting with CP James on Wed. 4/7 at the Danby Town Hall. It was a proposal by an Engineering Firm to consolidate the road use and maintenance agreement. We will be telling you more about it as we learn more.

Supervisor Driscoll invited the Director of Compliance for the Susquehanna River Basin Commission to meet with us. When he told other towns that he was coming there was interest in attending also. The Susquehanna River Basin Commission is the commission that is charged with all waters that flow into the Susquehanna down into the Chesapeake. Mr. Driscoll explained the

maps that were on the wall that designated the water shed and everything South is in the jurisdiction of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and they were here because the Susquehanna River Basin Commission is charged with giving water use permits for any use greater than a particular amount and there is a threshold for that ie. Golf courses or any other kinds of water usage that are of a great scale. The drilling activity falls into that and we wanted to have a discussion with them to learn more of what their jurisdiction is and what their methods are and how it is what we as a Town can say about it.

Ground fire – There was a ground fire started on Trumbulls Corner, spread up the hill towards Protts Hill. Supervisor Driscoll stated he wanted to commend the Newfield Fire Co. for a job very well done. They were very organized and the fire was out by 9:30PM. There were 8 companies that responded and it was a very impressive operation.

Supervisor Driscoll has been in contact with the farmer he is still interested in farming the land on Van Kirk Rd. He understands that another process will have to be looked at.

Highway – Highway Superintendent Kevin Berggren stated that the Highway Crew was cleaning up the roads from the winter plowing. Replace a couple of covert pipes.

Water-Sewer – No Report

Code Enforcement – Code Enforcer Tony Petito stated a complaint of scrap on a small construction site has been cleaned up. He is working on 2 on going cases and starting a new case on Saturday with an inspection. Mr. Petito reviewed the Land fill proposals on the Van Ostrand Rd.

Recreation – CP Laughlin stated that the Recreation Committee meeting is next week.

County Board Representative – County Legislator Dave McKenna reported that because the State does not have their budget and contracts in place there will be several delays on road and bridge repairs. Some projects may not be getting done. The Legislators have been touring the different facilities and getting to know the people.

Supervisor Driscoll stated he had one more item. As you know we have lost a wonderful and lifelong resident of Newfield last week, Charlie Berggren. The Town turned all of their attention, care and love to him all week long with calling hours at Bangs and the wonderful service at People's Baptist Church

and fellowship afterwards. He would like us to remember him as a man that served as a great example about how it is you get involved in a town in which you live. He encouraged the community to follow Charlie's example. So that at least for the shorter term we don't forget then events of last week. Supervisor Driscoll ordered that the flag be stayed at half staff for the rest of the month. So when you drive by you can think of and celebrate Charlie.

There being no further business motion was made by CP James to adjourn the meeting at 8:15PM. Motion was seconded by CP Laughlin. All approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Katharine Crance  
Town Clerk

April 22, 2010  
Date